Statement by H.E. Mr. KIM SONG, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the United Nations at the General Debate of the 17th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(New York, 13 June 2024)

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 17th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

I am confident that this session will be successful under your able leadership.

Mr. President,

It is the supreme principle of the state activities of the DPRK to place the interest of the people above everything else and ensure that all the people enjoy a dignified and proud life.

I take this opportunity to point out the policy and social initiatives that the government of the DPRK is consistently taking to promote and protect the dignity, rights and welfare of persons with disabilities at the highest level.
From the first day of its foundation, the Government of the DPRK attaches great importance to issues for protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and has reflected it on its Constitution, and regulated the provisions on the protection of rights of persons with disabilities on the several laws including the Socialist Labor Law, the Law on Education, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child and the Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women.

The solid legal grounds for ensuing the rights of persons with disabilities have been laid by adopting the “DPRK Law on the Protection of the Disabled” in June 2003.

In addition, a unified coordination framework for implementing the policy on the protection of rights of persons with disabilities has been introduced with the establishment of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for Protection of Persons with Disabilities in 1998 and the National Committee for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities in December 2016 respectively.

In our country, where the solid legal basis for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities has been established, the personality, rights and interests of persons with disabilities are absolutely respected and the people-oriented policies for the persons with disabilities have been continued to introduce.

Under the unified coordination of the National Committee for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Korean Federation for Protection of Persons with Disabilities, each person with disability is placed in the right position based on personality, characteristics of each disability and working ability, and the work of providing technical trainings in various specialized fields has been normalizing.

As an integral part of the effort to enhance their social ability, national investment and supply of materials are primarily channeled into the teacher training and skill training projects for the persons with disabilities.
Especially, based on the principle of “Best things to children”, the government gives its priority to let children and students with disabilities grow brighter and more courageous with their hope and talent.

All children with disabilities staying at the Korean Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities are growing up free from worries by receiving uniforms and other school things and dairy products.

In addition, the Korean Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities is conducting education in various forms, laying great emphasis on helping them acquire psychological qualities required for receiving school education.

Furthermore, it is intensifying scientific and technical studies for the rehabilitation and providing early special education to children with disabilities on the basis of a modern scientific and technological information dissemination center.

The IT service rooms under the Korea Economic and Cultural Exchange Company of Persons with Speaking and Visual Impairment and other units are offering good services for the convenience of the persons with various impairments. Especially, they are giving sign language service to those with hearing impairments and vocal introductory service to those with visual impairment.

The Sign Language Interpreters’ Association of Korea is actively disseminating the common-sense approaches to natural disasters for the persons with disabilities.

The healthy food development and free service delivery of information technology for persons with disabilities have been launched nationwide to contribute to their health recovery and improvement of intellectual ability.

Indeed, all persons and children with disabilities are fully enjoying a happy and worthwhile life with nothing to envy in the world thanks to the policies of the most superior socialist system.
Mr. President,

It is the consistent position of the government of the DPRK to develop international cooperation and exchange for the genuine promotion and protection of human rights including the protection of persons with disabilities.

Proceeding from this position, the DPRK government signed the CRPD in July 2013 and ratified it in November 2016, and has actively taken domestic measures for the implementation of the CRPD.

The DPRK remains committed to constantly follow through the people-oriented policies for the improvement of material and cultural welfare of persons with disabilities by upholding the people-first policy, the state policy of our country, as its unwavering political ideal, and to fully implement its mission and obligations as a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you.